

The principle on which it works is that the black photo tray absorbs the sun's rays and converts them to heat thus heating the water to between 135° and 150°F. The water begins evaporating and, eventually, the air inside the sealed aquarium becomes saturated with water vapor. The water begins to condense around the sides and forms droplets which fall to the shaded bottom of the aquarium under the photo tray. This is distilled water, made using only the sun's rays. I collect this water by squeezing it up with a baster or an auto battery bulb and then store it in jugs.

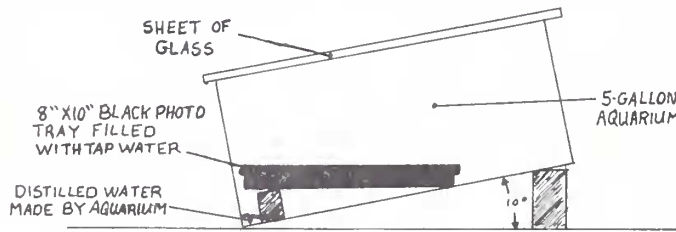
By using this method, I can distill between 10 and 16 oz. of water per aquarium each day. Presently, I have three solar distillers operating, and they give me nearly all the water I need.

The mineral crust that develops in the photo trays attests to the fact that the minerals have been left behind. This crust, incidentally, should be cleaned out periodically.

I used 10-gallon, "bargain" aquaria 10-1/2" wide, 12-1/2" deep, and 20" long. The photo trays are standard 8" x 10" black plastic and are available at photo stores. Be sure to use black trays as they will get the water hottest. The tray is placed about 1/4" away from the walls of the aquarium in order to let the condensed water fall to the bottom.

Efficiency of the solar water distiller will depend upon the time of the year and the amount of sunlight it receives. I will be happy to receive any comments or questions about the solar distiller.

(Received for publication July 20, 1977)



CPN--WHERE WE CAME FROM AND WHERE WE HOPE TO GO

by Joe Mazrimas and Don Schnell

Many newer subscribers have wondered and asked what CPN is and how it came about, so we thought it worthwhile recounting CPN's history briefly along with a few ideas on the present and future. You old-timers just reminisce along awhile.

Back in 1970, the two of us were independently studying and growing carnivorous plants when we were introduced into correspondence by a mutual friend--to this day we have never laid eyes on each other. We both carried on a wide-ranging correspondence with others, often the same people, and, of course, these letters were often packed with an interchange of useful bits or masses of information regarding the cultivation of CP, their response in culture, transplanting and, of course, much on natural history. Our letters and interests knew no national boundaries and often each of us handled dozens of letters each week, many of these covering similar ground.

In August of 1971, we began asking each other, why not some other system of exchange to avoid repetitions and reach correspondents better, something more efficient than a round-robin, perhaps a sort of *small* newsletter? We took our cue from some zoologists (well, they're not too far from CP) and their *Bat Research News*, a mimeographed quarterly of 6-8 pages, \$1.00 annually, and featuring news, short notes and current literature reviews.

Next, we needed a name, a bannerhead to distinguish this little newsletter to be dashed off quarterly. AMPHORA, which means "pitcher," was one suggestion,

but seemed a bit esoteric and less likely to identify in the potential reader's mind as the final selection, *Carnivorous Plant Newsletter*, which also lent itself conveniently to the now rather famous "CPN."

It is now January, 1972, and if this thing was going to get off the ground some work was needed. We devised a rather nondescript one page mimeo introductory letter which we sent out to all our mutual correspondents as well as major universities and botanical gardens throughout the world, 300 of these having been sent by February since we wanted the first quarterly issue to appear in April, 1972. In that initial letter the well-known, and we hope sustained, principles of CPN were stated, "and English speaking communication among people with our common interest in these fascinating plants," and the amazingly low subscription rate of \$1.00 was to cover costs with no profit. Since, of course, those costs have risen along with the cost of everything else.

We waited with great anticipation the flood of mail in response to our letter. There seemed to be hundreds of things to do and coordinate for the big day. Joe agreed to handle the dreary chores of subscriptions, literature review and mailing. Don arranged the final copy, cajoled his secretary to be typist for five years, and saw to the printing. We had decided the 8-1/2 x 11 format would be best in the beginning since it was convenient for binder storage and there was sufficient space for pictures and text. Dr. Ritchie Bell of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, graciously helped with the printing which was done with a new rapid photo-offset now in rather common use by rapid printing establishments throughout the country. The equipment could also produce black and white pictures for us. Meanwhile, Katsu Kondo, who was a graduate student at UNC at that time donated his considerable artistic talent and came up with our bannerhead, still used to this day. We received about 25 years' worth of the bannerhead blanks for front pages, so someone had faith in us!

Subscriptions only dribbled in so that by mid-March of 1972 we had less than two dozen! We did not worry too much about this but plunged ahead to get the first issue out by April. We hoped that the subscriptions would increase as word spread during the year so that towards the end, we might be able to sell out and recoup costs from an inventory of 100 issues. Everything was rolling now. Copy was set up and typed to masters, then sent over to UNC for printing. In April, the first slightly fuzzy (old typewriter) 15-page copy rolled off the press, and this seemed to solidify our thoughts and aims and did away with doubts that the massive project could be accomplished. We had initially envisioned a 4-6 page newsletter, but the need for communication immediately sent us into the 15-20 page issue, and later we were able to add 1/3 more words per mailing weight of 20 pages by a print size reduction method. Pictures were also improved by at first using separate plates for the covers and special picture pages (when we could afford it), then the rapid photo offset process also improved so we could get away from plates.

This first issue was sent to the meager subscriber list, which did leap ahead at one crucial point when our Japanese friends who had had a newsletter of their own for many years joined us with a mass of subscriptions from their organization. We exchanged letters of excitement when one after another CP expert subscribed, complimented or made positive suggestions for the newsletter. We were pleased with letters indicating how happy those with an amateur interest in CP were with some means of communicating, sharing, and acquiring knowledge. People with CP interests who lived in the same city, sometimes blocks from each other but never knowing there was someone nearby with similar interests, were thus able to meet.

Growth then came at an unpredictable rate, from all over the world, as word spread through personal communications and those authors kind enough to mention us in their articles and books. Reprints were needed. Off-prints of special articles in CPN were printed. Special projects such as the World List were started, and volunteers Bob Ziemer and Lynn Macey conceived the seed and plant exchange and an information service. The number of subscribers passed 600 in July, 1976, and the work of keeping records, typing, printing and mailing became so much that Leo Song kindly arranged to have all this taken over by Pat Hansen at The Arboretum at California State University, Fullerton, so we could concentrate on editing and solidifying long range plans and conceptions. To this end, Leo and Larry Mellichamp (a professional botanist at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte) also became co-editors to help us bring you a better, more useful newsletter with even more services. All this in five years.

So ends the beginning. What about the present? What plans for the future? More to come....